

The Bloomfield Record.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1880.

Snowdrops.

God's love has broken winter's chain,
The earth is paradise again;
A smile of sun, a kiss of showers,
Stays nature's frument with flowers.
After this waiting, what relief!
To open the spring! The robin that
Chirps champion the holly-hocks,
Let's sing; the cold is over now!
Come, let us lead our lover home;
The snowdrop's come.

Have you forgotten, love, last year;
Our springtime smiled without a tear;
That night when we went out and kissed
The roses blushed up in mist;
That day you pulled the branches down
And made me a leafy crown!
To you, sweetheart, when sun had set
I gave a closed daisies, Margaret.
"Tis spring again; our hour has come;
The snowdrop's come.

Haven't you felt as yet—yes will—
The world reaction and the thrill,
Whoo, like some resurrection day,
There comes a prelude to the May!
The May we've sworn to love, whose birth
Sends carols round the weary earth.
I have forgotten all—can you?
Who sent the winter thyme and rose,
Forget the love? Spring is home;

The snowdrop's come.
Let's start another leaf, forget
The rose-tinted pages, Margaret;
That chequered chronicle of life,
That died in sorrow, born in rhyme—
Love's splash, that I allow
Carved on a monument of stone.
Look round; eternity is love,
There's no decay; in eves above
The swallows gather, winging home;

The snowdrop's come.
—London World.

LED BY JEALOUSY.

THE EFFECT OF AN ADVERTISEMENT.
It was grand and gorgeous on the first morning of spring. It was not the tapping of the woodpecker in the hollow beech, nor yet the nutchuck humming at his breakfast, that soft rap-a-tap-one heard. It was only Mr. Ernest Black, knocking on his pipe against the garden fence.

Happy man! he had such a charming nook wherein to smoke the early pipe. His comfortable nest of shrublands, a cosy nook, built of sticks and roots, with glass houses, clustered about it, and its convenient offices at the rear, lay on a sweet river bank, where showing in silver streaks here and there. A warm pleasant little gingle encompasses the grounds, sheltering the house from the north and east, and the west, where the sun rises, here the first bloom of new-born spring is felt, and the first green leaf of the year is seen on the slender white birch, whose brown catkins are dying for love of the earliest blossoms of the season.

He was a good man, very good to be here, as he smoked his pipe on his garden seat. But everything comes to an end, and he had finished his pipe and knocked out the stem. He was chilled and the beauty of the matin air made him shiver. It was time, he found, to seek for his coat. He had a coat, but he had left the carriage wheels grinding on the gravel, it was removed from the stable to the hook.

He was a happy fellow, too, in his wife, who was a fair, plump-faced woman, of charming figure and full exuberance.

"I don't know you were going away," she said, a slight shade of vexation in her voice.

"Dish I tell you?" said Ernest. "I intended to. I shall be home to dinner. I'm only going to town to see the old masters. They close this week."

"To say the truth," Ernest did not much care for company when he was going to look at the pictures.

"Pity, eh?" he said, carelessly, putting his hand in his pocket, and glancing at his watch. "Well, another day perhaps. Tottie," her name was Theresa, but her pet name was Tottie—"and then, perhaps, I can go shopping with you. Why didn't you think of it before?"

"You should have told me you were going."

"Yes, it was stupid of me; however, there's help for it. I have only just time to catch the train. Good-bye."

There sat down once more to her book, of household expenses, but the total ran into each other, and the same row of figures wouldn't come to the same amount twice running. It wasn't her fault, she looked at the daily paper, and could not settle to anything. Then she sprang to her feet with a cry of distress.

She took up the outside sheet of the paper, and therewith had read an advertisement:

"Constance to Ernest. To-day at Victoria, 12 noon."

"That was the reason, then, that Ernest had come to town to-day. She had been wronged, deceived; could it be possible that such treachery, such betrayal of all the ties of friendship and affection could be permitted to exist?"

She had a sense of something, of a somewhat jealous disposition. Certainly Ernest had given her no cause hitherto, so far as she knew, but she had always imagined, it possible that at some time or other, he would, and not it seemed to her, though her forebodings had been justified.

Constance Brown had been her constant friend, her school-fellow, her one true companion, for whom her affection was unfeignedly strong. Her friendship had continued unabated for a whole two years after her marriage to Ernest, during which it had been her chief delight to entertain Constance at her new home. Now Ernest had come to town to-day, as at first, of course, of a somewhat jealous disposition. Certainly Ernest had given her no cause hitherto, so far as she knew, but she had always imagined, it possible that at some time or other, he would, and not it seemed to her, though her forebodings had been justified.

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